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SUBJECT Strength of Police Forces in the  
Soviet Zone of Germany

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

1. Strength of the Police -- Discussion

- a. The exact strength of the police in the Soviet Zone cannot be stated with absolute accuracy. This is due primarily to the constantly changing personnel picture which results from the continual purging of politically unreliable elements on one hand and from the forced recruiting program on the other. Even high officials of the GAI (highest headquarters of the police in the Soviet Zone) have no means of establishing the exact number of policemen in service on a given day.
- b. Generally speaking, the most reliable guide on the numerical strength of the Soviet Zone German police is the police budget, submitted by the Chiefs of Police of the five Soviet Zone Länder in conjunction with the GAI and the German Economic Commission (DWK) and approved by the Directorate for Internal Affairs (UVD) and the Financial Directorate of the SMA. There is ample documentary evidence showing that the appropriations for the police budget are considered final by the SMA and that the GAI must make no expenditures in excess of the appropriated amount except with the approval of the SMA. (The possibility of secret police funds, appropriated for under another heading, is discounted completely by reliable German and Soviet sources.) During the fiscal year 1948, additional appropriations were made for the Border Police and for the additional funds needed to cover the general salary increase for the Soviet Zone police, which has not yet been announced publicly but will be retroactive to 1 October 1948, i.e., the second half of the 1948 fiscal year.
- c. Appropriations for the police budget not only prescribe the total amount which may be expended for police purposes, but state precisely (just like the appropriations for the US Army) the number of "slots", i.e., positions prescribed by the Tables of Organization, which must be paid from the appropriated funds. On the basis of the T/O allocations in the police budget for the fiscal year 1948 (1 April 1948 to 31 March 1949), the following is the authorized (but not actual) strength of the police in the Soviet Zone.

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Brandenburg	11,000
Mecklenburg	7,500
Saxony	17,000
Saxony-Anhalt	13,000
Thuringia	2,000
Total for the five Länder	50,500
Railway police	5,000
German Adm. of the Interior	800
(Including clerical staff, Police Academy, and Criminological Laboratory)	

Number of T/O Positions appropriated for in budget for fiscal year 1948 -- 63,300, excluding border and Paramilitary Police and the Berlin east sector.

- d. The organization and strength of the police in the Soviet Zone was naturally affected by political developments. This resulted in an increase over the total appropriated T/O strength. The first of these major changes occurred in February 1948 when the German Administration of the Interior, acting upon orders of the UWI, SMA, established a specialized Border Police force consisting of 3,700 men, drawn mostly from the Schutzpolizei (Uniformed Constabulary) of the major cities in the Soviet Zone. This force was expanded in the last week of March when the strength of the Border Police was established at around 10,000 men. The Border Police was organized along military lines and was better paid and fed than the ordinary German police. Nevertheless, the proximity of the border represented an attraction which many of the border policemen apparently could not resist. As a result, the force undergoes a constant attrition through desertions and its present effective strength is estimated by a very reliable source as 6,700.
- e. A second major development affecting the strength of the Soviet Zone police was the virtual integration of the Berlin east sector police, under former Police President Paul Markgraf, into the eastern zone police apparatus. The strength of the Berlin eastern sector police is estimated as 8,641.
- f. The third, and perhaps most significant, major increase in the strength of the Soviet Zone police resulted from the organization of the so-called Polizeibereitschaften, referred to as "Alert-Police", "Kasernierte Polizei", or paramilitary police. This organization, recruited predominantly from among former German prisoners of war in Russia and led to a large extent by professional officers including former German generals, came into being during the late summer of 1948. Since its initial appearance it has become a subject of intense controversy, rumors, and exaggeration. Its strength was spoken of in terms of hundreds of thousands, actual or planned. The facts, as usual, are not quite so spectacular. While the organization of this paramilitary police force is most significant (and, incidentally, definitely contrary to the Potsdam declaration) and may herald the organization of a "People's Army" in the eastern zone of Germany, the present strength of the organization is somewhat less than 10,000 men, although an expansion to 15,000 is planned in the very near future.
- g. Since the paramilitary police has become a subject of such intense controversy, it may be well to review the information on the basis of which the present strength of the paramilitary police force is estimated at less than 10,000:
  - (1) A copy has been received of a letter from Vice-President Seifert of the German Administration of the Interior to Lt. Col. Golovlev of the Internal Affairs Directorate, SMA, Berlin-Friedrichshagen. The letter (dated 4 September 1948) is a request on behalf of the German Administration of the Interior to the UWD, SMA, for the relaxation of

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budget regulations, and its subject is: "Temporary Financing of the Paramilitary Police from the Budget for the Fiscal Year 1948". The following is quoted from the body of the letter:

"The German Administration of the Interior is at this time faced with the urgent task of organizing and developing the Polizeibereitschaften (paramilitary or alert police). In order to pay the newly employed personnel of the paramilitary police we must utilize all unused appropriations which were to be expended during the budget year 1948 for the payment of police personnel. These unused appropriations are available because the police is well under strength. It has been established that roughly 15,000 positions prescribed by the Tables of Organization are presently unoccupied, as a result of the great difficulty we are encountering in finding the appropriate number of personnel for the police service.

"As it stands, however, the budget regulations do not permit the full utilization of the unexpended appropriations. Under the regulations, payment of an individual must be made only on basis of an available T/O position. Most of the available T/O slots, however, call for the grade of Wachtmeister (patrolman) -- thus a considerable proportion of the now-to-be-employed Alert Police cannot be paid from these T/O appropriations because of their higher rank, including generals, which requires pay in excess of the appropriations."

Vice-President Seifert's letter then discusses ways and means of arranging transfer of unexpended appropriated police funds but states that nothing can be done without the approval of the Finance Directorate of the SMA.

- (2) The above letter warrants the following conclusions:
- (a) The police in the Soviet Zone was on 4 September 1948 15,000 men under the strength authorized by the Tables of Organization for the Fiscal Year 1948.
  - (b) The number of paramilitary police foreseen on 4 September 1948 was certainly less than 15,000, but the funds required for their salary were in excess of the appropriation for the 15,000 unfilled positions; this is due to the fact that a considerable number of paramilitary police receive a higher rate of pay than the patrolmen of the ordinary police.
  - (c) budget regulations must be observed by the German police; consequently Table of Organization strength, as authorized by the budget, can safely be regarded as the maximum strength.
- (3) A reliable and well-placed source gave the following information on the location of paramilitary police units (Bereitschaften):

<u>Mecklenburg</u>	Rostock	2
	Senftenberg	1
	Kühlungsborn	1

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<u>Saxony-Anhalt</u>	Apolda-Morff	2
	Herbst	2
	Dommitzsch	1
	Quedlinburg	1
	Weissenfels	1
<u>Brandenburg</u>	Lotzdorf-Fichte	1
	Kyritz	1
	Wittenberge	1
	Annaburg	1
	Brandenburg GfH	
<u>Berlin</u>	Berlin-	
	Wilhelmsruh	1
<u>Thuringia</u>	Nordhausen	1
	Sondershausen	1
	Mühlhausen	1
	Weiningen	4
	Gotha	2
	Ilmenau	1
<u>Saxony</u>	Flauen	1
	Zwickau	2
	Chemnitz	2
	Pirna	1
	Grossenhain	2
	Arnsdorf	2

The above distribution of paramilitary police strength was confirmed independently for Brandenburg and the City of Berlin by the deputy commander of the Schutzpolizei in one of the larger cities of Brandenburg, and by a field-grade officer of the SM for Land Saxony. In view of these confirmations the strength distribution for the other three Länder is to be regarded as probably accurate.

- (4) The basic paramilitary police unit (Bereitschaft) consists of 250 men. Assuming that each unit is filled to the required T/O strength, the following are the figures on paramilitary police strength by Länder:

Mecklenburg	1,000
Saxony-Anhalt	1,750
Brandenburg	1,500
Berlin	250
Thuringia	2,500
Saxony	2,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,500</b>

- (5) As stated before, present plans call for an expansion of the paramilitary police to 15,000 men. It may be assumed that the German Administration of the Interior will attempt to reach that figure as soon as possible and that paramilitary police units, in addition to the ones listed above, will be organized as the necessity arises. But a recent report from a leading official at Wilhelmsruh to the President of the GAI, Dr. Kurt Fischer, stated: "... Recruiting of the paramilitary police proceeds very slowly and it is believed to be doubtful that the required number of men, in addition to other long unfilled police strength requirements, could be

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obtained short of conscription." To this one may add that the large-scale recruitment of former prisoners of war from the USSR may be one answer, but it is unlikely that the SMG will permit the paramilitary police to consist exclusively of recently discharged prisoners of war.

2. Strength of the Police -- Statistical Analysis

Land Brandenburg			
Actual Strength :			
	Administrative Police	1,500	
	Criminal Police	1,020	
	Schutzpolizei	3,100	
	Railway Police	930	
	Paramilitary Police	1,500	
	Total		13,050
Land Mecklenburg			
Actual Strength :			
	Administrative Police	800	
	Criminal Police	950	
	Schutzpolizei	4,900	
	Railway Police	800	
	Paramilitary Police	1,000	
	Total		8,540
Land Saxony			
Actual Strength :			
	Breakdown on the three main branches of the police (not available)	15,180	
	Railway Police	975	
	Paramilitary Police	2,500	
	Total		18,655
Land Saxony-Anhalt			
Actual Strength :			
	Administrative Police	1,980	
	Criminal Police	895	
	Schutzpolizei	7,085	
	Railway Police	850	
	Paramilitary Police	1,750	
	Total		12,560
Land Thuringia			
Actual Strength :			
	Administrative Police	1,510	
	Criminal Police	1,100	
	Schutzpolizei	6,050	
	Railway Police	865	
	Paramilitary Police	2,500	
	Total		12,025
Border Police (strength by Lander not available)			6,700
City of Berlin (Eastern Sector)			
T/O Strength authorized by the Allied Kommandatura (Actual Strength is probably somewhat less but cannot be safely estimated) :			
	Administrative Police	919	
	Criminal Police	1,027	

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Actual Strengths:	Schutzpolizei	4,695	
	Auxiliary Police	1,300	
	Railway Police	450	
	Paramilitary Police	250	
	Total		8,641

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German Administration of the Interior

Total estimated strength of Soviet Zone police including the eastern sector of Berlin, Border, Railway, and Paramilitary Police: 80,971

Following is the breakdown of police strength by functional branches:

Administrative Police	1,500	
Brandenburg	890	
Mecklenburg	2,000	
Saxony (estimate)	1,980	
Saxony-Anhalt	1,510	
Thuringia	919	
Berlin		8,799

Criminal Police	1,020	
Brandenburg	950	
Mecklenburg	1,785	
Saxony (estimate)	895	
Saxony-Anhalt	1,100	
Thuringia	1,027	
Berlin		6,777

Schutzpolizei	8,100	
Brandenburg	4,900	
Mecklenburg	11,395	
Saxony (estimate)	7,085	
Saxony-Anhalt	6,050	
Thuringia	4,695	
Berlin		42,225

Railway Police	930	
Brandenburg	800	
Mecklenburg	975	
Saxony	850	
Saxony-Anhalt	865	
Thuringia	450	
Berlin		4,870

Border Police	6,700	
Distribution by Lander not available		

Paramilitary Police	1,500	
Brandenburg		

Mecklenburg	1,600
Thuringia	2,500
Saxony	2,500
Saxony-Anhalt	1,750
Berlin	250
	<hr/> 9,500
German Administration of the Interior	800
Auxiliary Police (in Berlin only)	1,300

It should be emphasized, however, that these figures on the strength of the Soviet Zone German police must be considered tentative to the extent that they cannot take into consideration the unbelievably rapid turn-over of police personnel. As stated before, large-scale dismissals and mass recruitment of future police personnel from factories and prisoner-of-war camps are daily occurrences and would necessitate a daily revision of the strength figures. This, obviously, cannot be undertaken. It is probable, however, that the mass recruitment of personnel just about covers the mass dismissals. Thus, while there may be as much as 15% difference either way between the strength figures given above and the actual strength on a certain day, it is believed that the over-all figure given above is a reasonably accurate figure of Soviet Zone police strength, although a margin of error of from 5 to 8% must always be considered a possibility.

### 3. Armament of Police

- a. The armament of municipal (including Land) police consists primarily of semi-automatic pistols of various calibers and manufacture. As an example, in a letter to the President of the German Administration of the Interior, the Chief of the Saxony-Anhalt police stated that his force was equipped with pistols of 72 different manufactures and 4 different calibers.
- b. The Border Police are equipped with the K 98 German Army infantry carbine, semi-automatic pistols, and submachine guns. The latter are partly old Russian cartridge-drum type weapons, partly the all-metal MP 44 used by the German Army in the last stages of the war.
- c. The paramilitary police also has as its basic weapon the K 98 carbine. There are also two MP 44 submachine guns for every ten-man squad and 10 "C8" heavy machine guns (water-cooled) for every "Bereitschaft" unit, the T/O strength of which is 250 men. The introduction of the 60 mm. heavy mortar for these units is planned but not yet accomplished.
- d. To date the German police (including paramilitary units) have neither artillery nor armored cars or tanks although the introduction of such offensive weapons is frequently discussed unofficially even among high-ranking officials of the German Administration of the Interior. Re-urring rumors about German armored units may be safely discounted.

### 4. Armed Organizations in the Soviet Zone in Addition to the Police

In addition to the "regular" police organizations discussed above, the German Administration of the Interior in conjunction with the German Economic Commission (DW) is presently engaged in organizing a uniform and centralized factory security system. In place of

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individual security arrangements made by each factory, with locally hired night watchmen, the GAI plans to introduce a uniform "Fabrikschutz" (factory protection) throughout the Soviet Zone. Existing factory guard units and those night watchmen who are physically fit will be merged with the new organization, which will be equipped with weapons and uniforms. Eventually all reliable members of the SPD are expected to join a "Fabrikschutz" (factory protection) organization. In this connection a leading official of the German Administration of the Interior stated that while the above measures are in a preliminary stage, the "Fabrikschutz" when fully organized may be considered as auxiliary police and might logically lead to the organization of an armed workers' militia. Present (very tentative) plans call for a strength of 65,000 men.

5. Planned Increase in the Strength of German Police in the Soviet Zone

The German Administration of the Interior is making plans to increase the strength of the Soviet Zone police to nearly double its present size. In view of the shortage of available manpower in the Soviet Zone and the obvious reluctance of the population to accept the police as the "People's Police" which Communist propaganda claims it to be, it appears to be extremely dubious that the ambitious plans of the GAI could be fulfilled in the foreseeable future. In any case, no reliable estimate on the proposed strength can be made until work on the new police budget commences. This is expected to be sometime in January 1949.

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